

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH**

2017

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, hepatitis B and hepatitis C affect people across the United States and are significant health issues in North Carolina, where they affect thousands of citizens each year; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 3.2 million people in the United States, including more than 110,000 in North Carolina, are living with chronic hepatitis C infection, and up to fifty percent of people living with chronic hepatitis C do not know that they are infected; and

**WHEREAS**, there were an estimated 30,500 new cases of acute hepatitis C reported nationwide in 2014, and reported cases of acute hepatitis C in North Carolina have increased by more than four-fold since 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, syringe service programs are now available in North Carolina and are an evidence-based method of reducing hepatitis B and hepatitis C; and

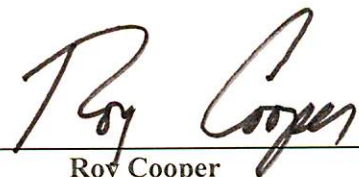
**WHEREAS**, there are medications available that can cure hepatitis C and vaccine available for hepatitis B; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina is actively working to address injection drug use and hepatitis C through the Hepatitis C TLC (Test, Link, Cure) program and community prevention and education programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Hepatitis Testing Day is May 19<sup>th</sup> and per guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people born between 1945 and 1965 must be tested as least once for hepatitis C; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina joins all local health departments, community based organizations, local hospitals, infectious disease doctors, and other community- and faith-based allies in supporting efforts to eliminate associated health inequities and improve education, prevention, research, and community service to stop the spread of hepatitis B and hepatitis C;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2017, as “HEPATITIS AWARENESS MONTH” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twentieth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.